

you know, very often the bill just whisks across on a voice vote, and, in my mind anyway, this bill is too important for that. The vote has always been very close on it, and I think it deserves some further discussion. There really are some very good reasons why we shouldn't pass this bill, and I am going to try to enumerate the ones that I think are the most important. First of all, there is a lot of disagreement in this country about whether the electoral college should be retained or not, and as Senator Kristensen acknowledged I think in his remarks last time, there have been bills in Congress for many years over a number of Congresses to try to do away with the electoral college and try to change the electoral college. My personal preference is that it should be a straight vote of the people, that we shouldn't have electors any more. It is not necessary in this day and age to have other people represent us in some sort of a college that makes the decision. I think that communications are too good now, I think that people's level of education is too good now, I think a straight popular vote in which the people's view is represented is the best one. I think it would do two things. It would prevent the kind of electoral situation where the popular vote is in favor of one candidate, and the electoral vote is in favor of the other candidate. It would also prevent the kinds of artificial mandates that we have seen in recent years, well, not even recent years, in...during the history of our country where a presidential election is fairly close, very close in some cases, and yet the electoral vote is skewed entirely one way. So I don't like the electoral college system any more, but I have to acknowledge that it does one thing, and it does provide some stability to the system. We don't get in a situation where nobody gets a majority of the vote. We don't get in a situation where we have a lot of recounts taking place and a lot of court cases taking place. So it does, it does serve a purpose. What my bill did was establish in 1991 a compromise between keeping the electoral college and doing away with it completely, and that compromise was that we allocate the electoral votes according to the...more to the grass-roots vote in Congressional Districts, and it would allow that Nebraska's electoral vote could reflect more of a division in the state than the current winner-take-all system does. I do believe that fairness is an issue here. I think it is a populace kind of proposal, that it does represent people more nearly than the winner-take-all situation does. I would also make the argument that this has been tried in only one election here in Nebraska, although Maine has had a number of years of having it in place. The system worked last time